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All of our Pozible supporters,
 including our two Executive
 Producers David Lee and
 Steed Murphy

And all the staff at La Boite

We are incredibly grateful for
 our wonderful cast and crew
 who were integral to bringing
 Sunnytown to life.

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SUNNYTOWN

By Krystal Sweedman

PROGRAM

LA BOITE INDIE

LOVINGLY HANDMADE

INDEPENDENT THEATRE IN BRISBANE





Heather Fairbairn - Director's Notes:

At first glance, the play appears to be a whimsical tale about a girl who slips between reality and an imagined Wonderland-esque world on her 13th birthday. However, the work has a dark underbelly through which cycles of domestic abuse are examined. The mother struggles to uphold a veneer of normality—at the expense of her own safety—, while the outwardly charismatic father figure controls his family through violence and emotional abuse.

Although the script calls for a Far North Queensland setting, I have steered the production away from a specific locale; domestic abuse does not discriminate between geographical location and social status. Occurrences of this largely hidden-crime are rife state-wide, nationwide, even in the most affluent areas, often taking the form of subtle, non-violent, cohesive behaviour. We should encourage public discourse about this crime, not leave it concealed behind closed doors. If that means broaching the subject while serving birthday cake, then so be it.



Krystal Sweedman - Writer's Notes:

There are some stories you can't avoid telling, no matter how much you try. It's 2013. I'm studying writing for performance at NIDA under the tutelage of renowned political playwright Stephen Sewell. He's encouraging us to find the Australian horror – whether that is a story about our current political climate and its failings, or a personal excavation of human nature and its foibles – find that which makes you say "I cannot write this story" – then do it.

After jumping from idea to idea, none exciting me with its originality I finally found Danika Hart and her journey through Sunnyside Municipal Extravaganza Mall. The play came in a fit of panic, written a month out from our presentation deadline. It wasn't ready, but it was something new.

From there I realised what I was afraid of.

When we are young we understand little. Conflict is either close to home; with parents, teachers and other students, or far away – constrained to our news feeds or television screens. When it's close, it is hard to know how to deal with it.

I wanted to examine family conflict from an adolescent's point of view. How does being in a chaotic, unpredictable environment affect the psyche? What is happening in our homes in Australia that's led to over 64 women losing their life to murders (often from their partner) this year alone? How do we deal with these problems when denial is such a strong form of coping?

Sunnyside also explores emotional fitness and how, if we don't develop healthy coping mechanisms for expressing our emotions and pain we are more likely to use alcohol and other substances to numb or distract ourselves from our feelings.

This is *Sunnyside's* first production, and we've reached this point thanks to the support of many people who have contributed to the play's development; most notably dramaturg Kathryn Kelly and director Heather Fairbairn.

Thanks for coming along and seeing our show.



CAST AND CREW

Dani Olivia Hall-Smith

Miranda Vanessa Krummenacher

Marg Caroline Dunphy

Jim Ron Kelly

Voice of Ra Rowan Chapman

Playwright Krystal Sweedman

Director Heather Fairbairn

Designer Catherine Steele

Script Dramaturgy Kathryn Kelly and Peter Matheson

Assistant Director Jessica Palfrey

Producer Emma Joenpolvi

Lighting Designer Jason Glenwright

Sound Designer Guy Webster

Stage Manager Emma Wenlock and Laura Hansford

Assistant Stage Manager Eduardo Knox

Assistant Lighting Designer Christine Felmingham

Assistant Sound Designer Kyle Berry

Marketing Assistant Isabella Anderson